

BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

DECEMBER, 1997
VOLUME 19, NUMBER 10

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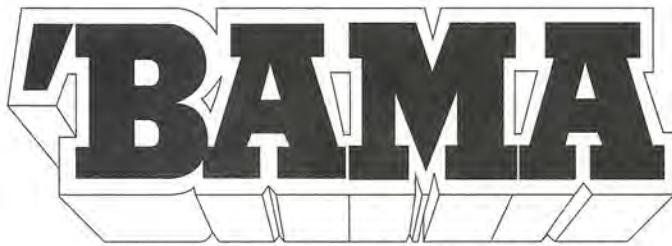
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Demetrius Alexander came to Alabama a year ago and it was hoped he could add some rebounding help. He became one of Bama's top players. This year he is expected to help lead the Crimson Tide back to respectability.

by Craig Threlkeld

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Good football teams have lots of good big players, and Alabama is on the search for a number of linemen, linebackers and tight ends. As always, Bama's recruiting efforts will include top players around the Southeast. Here's a look at some of those.

by Craig Threlkeld



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On The Cover: Sarah Patterson and her husband and assistant coach, David, will begin their 20th year of producing championship gymnastics teams at Alabama this winter. The achievements of past Bama gymnasts and the expectations of the current Tiders are extraordinarily high.

Barry Fikes Photo

BAMA SCORECARD

All-Star Candidates

Although it's hard to imagine this year's Alabama football team having any stars, the Crimson Tide does have some who have been nominated for various honors.

The Alabama player most likely to be honored prior to the beginning of the season was defensive tackle Michael Myers, who was discovered to have had improper contact with an agent and was dismissed from the team after one game. Another top candidate for honors was wide receiver Michael Vaughn, who had back surgery the week before the season opened and was held out this year.

Bama's top all-star candidates this year are probably freshmen who have been nominated to the Freshman All-Southeastern Conference team. Freshmen with a chance to make that squad would include middle linebacker Travis Carroll, defensive end Kenny Smith, center Paul Hogan and strong safety Marcus Spencer.

Other players who have been nominated for honors include running back Curtis Alexander, cornerback Fernando Bryant, defensive end Chris Hood, tight end Rod Rutledge, offensive tackle Chris Samuels, fullback Ed Scissum, linebacker Trevis Smith and cornerback Deshea Townsend.

Top Walk-Ons

Sports Illustrated magazine recently selected an all-star team of players who had walked on at major colleges, and two Alabama football players were selected to the squad. They are senior offensive guard Brenon Meadows, who is a walk-on at Alabama but who was previously a scholarship player at Louisville, and strong safety Marcus Spencer, a redshirt freshman who has been a captain on the special teams as well as a starter in the secondary this year.

Good Works Team

Junior quarterback John David Phillips is Alabama's representative on the SEC's fourth annual "Football Good Works Team," recognizing the superior community service efforts of league football players. The team consists of a student-athlete from each SEC institution, nominated by his school's personnel,

who has devoted himself to community service.

"These student-athletes have utilized their intercollegiate athletic experience to become champions, both on and off the playing field," said Commissioner Roy Kramer. "The SEC is proud to sponsor the 'Football Good Works Team' and hopes that its members can be a model for our young people to learn from."

Each week during the 1997 football season, a member of the "Football Good Works Team" has been featured on Jefferson-Pilot SEC football telecasts.

Phillips is an active leader in The University's chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He has spoken to many groups, such as the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame FCA Breakfast, South Lamar High School, Tuscaloosa Academy, National Day of Prayer Youth Rally and The Challenger Banquet in Pensacola, Florida. He is a public relations major.

Sportsmanship

The SEC has an official car and truck rental company, Budget, which presents awards for sportsmanship. Each school nominates a senior male and female athlete for the award. Alabama's nominees were golfer Kathryn Cusick of Jacksonville, Florida, and football tailback Curtis Alexander of Memphis, Tennessee.

Booth Named For Forney

In a Bryant-Denny Stadium press box ceremony prior to the Louisiana Tech game, the booth where Alabama's radio network crew works was designated the John Forney Radio Booth in honor of the long-time "Voice of the Crimson Tide" who died a month before the start of this season.

Pipeline To The NBA

While some may have been surprised that Alabama was able to attract one of the nation's top prep basketball players, 6-10 center Rashard Lewis of Alief, Texas, for one of his official visits, Bama's success in sending players to the National Basketball Association plays a part in Crimson Tide recruiting.

Bama may not sign Lewis (who may go straight to the NBA from high school), but getting an official visit from a player of that caliber says much about the Crimson Tide program.

Alabama has had six first round draft selections in the last five years, had an SEC-high eight players active on NBA rosters last year, and there are 10 former Tide on NBA rosters this year (with Eric Washington a rookie and David Benoit returning after a year out with an injury).

Former Tide on NBA teams are:

Keith Askins, Miami Heat; David Benoit, New Jersey Nets; Jason Caffey, Chicago Bulls; Robert Horry, Los Angeles Lakers; Antonio McDyess, Phoenix Suns; Derrick McKey, Indiana Pacers; James Robinson, Los Angeles Clippers; Roy Rogers, Boston Celtics; Latrell Sprewell, Golden State Warriors; and Eric Washington, Denver Nuggets.

Another former Bama player, T.R. Dunn, is an assistant coach at Denver.

Lucky 13

In her third game as a professional basketball player, former Alabama women's star Shalonda Enis scored a season-high 33 points for the Seattle Reign in an American League Basketball game. Enis eclipsed former Stanford star Kate Starbird's previous team-high of 25 points. Enis hit 10-of-14 shots from the floor, including three-for-four on three-pointers. She also had 12 rebounds.

A night earlier, Enis had led Seattle to victory with a rare four-point play as she hit a three-pointer at the buzzer, was fouled, and made the free throw for the winning point.

Enis is one of four former Tide stars playing professionally in the United States. Linda Burgess of the Los Angeles Sparks and Cassandra-Crumpton Moorer of the New York Liberty, who is an assistant for Coach Rick Moody's Bama women's team, play in the summer league WNBA. Enis and Niesa Johnson of the Atlanta Glory play in the ABL.

Rankings

The Alabama women's basketball team of Coach Rick Moody was ranked 10th by *ESPN/USA Today* and 11th by the Associated Press, and the Tide will see plenty of other highly-ranked teams. Bama's schedule includes seven teams listed in the Associated Press pre-season poll, including two-time defending national champion Tennessee, ranked first. Other ranked teams on the

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Roses of Crimson

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schedule include number nine Florida, number 10 Vanderbilt, number 14 Georgia, number 17 Stephen F. Austin, number 20 Auburn and number 25 LSU.

In addition, the WNIT field features other possible ranked opponents for the Tide in number six Connecticut and number 16 Western Kentucky.

SEC Predictions

Each year the SEC hosts all men's and women's basketball coaches and a couple of top players from each team at SEC Media Days, and then a media panel predicts the order of finish and selects a pre-season all-conference team. Not surprisingly, Alabama's women's team fared better than the men's squad at this year's meeting.

The women of Coach Rick Moody were picked to finish third (the women do not play by divisions), while the men of Coach David Hobbs were picked fourth in the Western Division. Bama's Dominique Carty (who is a pre-season All-America) was named to the pre-season All-SEC team for the women.

Tennessee was picked first, Florida second, Alabama third, Vanderbilt fourth, Georgia fifth, Auburn sixth, Arkansas seventh, LSU eighth, Mississippi ninth, Kentucky 10th, Mississippi State 11th and South Carolina 12th in women's play.

For the men, in the Western Division it was Ole Miss number one, Arkansas second, Mississippi State third, Auburn fourth, Alabama fifth and LSU sixth. In the Eastern Division it was South Carolina number one, Kentucky second, Georgia third, Vanderbilt fourth, Tennessee fifth and Florida sixth.

Coach Missing Games

New Men's Assistant Basketball Coach Kermit Koenig missed Bama's first two exhibition games because of treatment. Koenig, 42, who was recently diagnosed with cancer in his sinus cavity, was to undergo 96 consecutive hours of chemotherapy, what was expected to be his final extended chemotherapy treatment.

Former Foes

It is not at all unusual for a college team to have teammates who were former high school opponents. But Alabama has a rarity. Men's point guard Chauncey Jones and women's star guard/forward Dominique Carty played against one another in AAU competition in Chicago. Carty prepped at Whitney Young and Jones at Thornton Township, but they also played AAU basketball in a Chicago summer league. Carty was the only female on her team.

Roberts Makes World Team

Junior diver Brent Roberts staged an incredible comeback to earn a spot on the United States World Championship Diving Team, which will compete in Perth, Australia, January 14-19. Roberts earned one of two spots on the team with an exceptional performance on the 10-meter platform at the World Championship Team Trials in Athens, Georgia. Roberts, a native of Pensacola, Florida, will be making his second appearance in international competition for the United States. He competed at the Dive Canada meet in 1995. He also competed on

the United States Junior National team several times.

Roberts is a two-time All-America on platform, finishing third at last year's NCAA Championships. He was SEC Diver of the Year as a sophomore.

Triathletes

Former Tide swimmer Bruce Gennari ('89) was winner of the 1997 Iron Man Triathlon last month in Hawaii.

A number of former Bama athletes have been active in the grueling triathlon series. Former Bama women's team swimmer Susan Bartholomew ('92) was named 1996 Amateur Triathlete of the year by *Triathlon* magazine.

Fall Tennis

New Alabama Men's Tennis Coach Adam Steinberg saw good tennis players when he was at Northwestern last year, but he didn't see the good players in the South. That's one reason the Region III Indoor Tennis Championship tournament, held at Georgia in November, was a valuable experience for Steinberg. Region III includes five teams ranked in the nation's top 10, while Alabama is ranked 21st.

Another good reason for the tournament was it enabled the Crimson Tide doubles team of senior Chris Lopez and freshman Graydon Oliver to finish fall work on a high note. The pair took two hours but finally defeated an Auburn team in the finals of the doubles competition.

Best Record

The Alabama soccer team of Coach Don Staley finished its season on a sour note as Georgia, the only SEC team to defeat Bama during regular season play, knocked the Crimson Tide out of the SEC Tournament for the second consecutive year. Nevertheless, the Tide set a school record for victories with its 14-5 record and Bama won the SEC Western Division championship.

In the Tide's final regular season game, Staley started the entire senior class, and Bama responded with a 5-0 victory over Jacksonville State.

Christmas Camp

Head Baseball Coach Jim Wells and his staff will be hosting their annual Christmas Vacation Camp December 27-28 at Sewell-Thomas Stadium. The baseball instruction camp is for youngsters aged 13-18 and ninth through 12th grades. Cost of the camp is \$100 for commuters and \$120 for overnight campers. For further information contact Kirk Blount in the Alabama Baseball Office at (205) 348-5258.

Vaz Returning To Alabama?

Roberto Vaz, one of nine finalists for the Golden Spikes Award as the nation's best college baseball player, may be returning to Alabama. No, not The University of Alabama. However, Vaz, who signed following last season with the Oakland Athletics, is expected to be assigned to the Huntsville Stars of the Southern League next spring.

Vaz led Alabama in virtually every category last year before his season was ended by a broken foot at the NCAA South II Regional. Alabama advanced to the College World Series and even without Vaz finished second in the nation.

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Early Signees:

New Tiders Come Aboard

by Kirk McNair

Help is on the way as Tide recruiters in winter and spring sports add players

The season has just begun for Alabama Head Coach David Hobbs, but he has already had a major success. That's because Hobbs and his staff landed the state's top prospect in the early signing period, which began November 12 and was to continue through November 19. That early signing period is for winter and spring sports, with most of the attention on men's basketball.

Sam Haginas was considered by every national and regional recruiting service as the state's top prospect. One state newspaper made him the number two prospect, but that newspaper probably just wanted to have a different number one. By any criteria, the primary one being recruiting attention, Haginas was the top prospect. He had been heavily recruited by Alabama, Wake Forest, Indiana, Vanderbilt, LSU and Auburn and made recruiting trips to the first four of those schools. He eventually decided on Bama over Wake Forest.

Haginas is a 6-8, 227-pound forward for Coach Kemper Todd at UMS-Wright Prep in Mobile. He led his team to three tournament championships and the state 3A semifinals last year. His team was 26-7 in his junior campaign as he averaged 18 points and 9 rebounds per game. Haginas, a straight-A student, had a top game of 40 points and 12 rebounds in the regional championship. He was an all-state selection. He has also been a three-year letterman in baseball.

Hobbs said, "The inside has been one of the focuses of our recruiting efforts. Sam could conceivably contribute right away. He can run. He's a good athlete, a tough competitor. I'm looking forward to having him in our basketball program."

Alabama was hoping to add to its signee list in the final few days of the early signing period. There is the possibility of prospects waiting until the spring signing period, which begins in April.

Among those still considering the Tide was the nation's top prospect by at least one recruiting service. Rashard Lewis, a 6-10 center from Alief, Texas, reported that he had an excellent visit to Alabama the weekend of November 8, and then he cancelled a planned visit to Kentucky the next weekend. *USA Today* reported Bama leading for Lewis, who many believe may go straight to the NBA. Houston was thought to be the



Sam Haginas

top competition for Lewis, who was also offered by defending national champion Arizona, Arkansas, Texas and Southern Cal.

The top in-state prospect still on Alabama's recruiting list is Cedric Patton, a 6-7, 170-pound forward for Coach Ronnie Stapler at Huntsville Grissom. He was also considering Vanderbilt, Northwestern and Ole Miss.

Several junior college prospects are linked to Alabama. They include 6-8 Desmond Walker of Greenville, who is playing at Florida Junior College in Jacksonville, Florida; 6-4, 235-pound power forward Mark Kimbrough at Pensacola Junior College; and power forward Silester Rivers of Utah Valley Junior College.

Women's Coach Rick Moody, who had seven scholarships to give, got a terrific recruiting start with five highly-regarded signees. The new Bama women basketball players will include the state's number one prospect, the nation's junior college scoring leader, and an AAU All-America selection. Alabama's signees include:

LaNisha Cartwell, a 6-2 center for Coach Johnny Horton at Montevallo High School, was the unanimous number one women's prospect in Alabama this year. She averaged 20.4 points and 11.7 rebounds per game as a junior.

Shondra Johnson of New Orleans St. Mary's Academy, a 5-10 point guard who averaged more than 30 points per game last year and led the Kenner (Louisiana) Angels to the AAU National Championship last summer.

Kaunda Williams led the nation in scoring last year as a freshman at Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City, Florida. She is a 5-9 guard who averaged 33.5 points per game.

Beth Vice is likely to be Miss Basketball in Kentucky, where she is a 5-10 guard for former Tide assistant Mike Kindred at Montgomery County High School.

Nikki Prescott is a 6-1 swing player from San Diego, California. She, too, made a name for herself in AAU competition.

Although he has been on the job just three years, Head Baseball Coach Jim Wells already has the reputation of a coach who re-loads rather than re-builds. And his early signing class of 11 top players is evidence of that. "We have put together a very good group of players," Wells said. "Unless the major league draft hurts us, we shouldn't have to recruit a lot of players this spring."

Bama's latest signees include:

Brent Boyd, a 5-11, 190-pound infielder from Fort Worth, Texas, who hit .507 at Paschal High School. He is a three-time district player of the year and was all-state as a junior.

Jeremy Brown, a 5-11, 210-pound catcher and infielder for Coach Rick Patterson at Hueytown. He batted .458 with 10 home runs, five doubles and three triples and drove in 43 runs last year. He also pitched and had a 12-2 record and 1.03 earned run average with 93 strikeouts.

Dave Callahan, 6-1, 210, a first baseman and outfielder at Pal Bay (Florida) High School batted .445 with six home runs and 30 runs batted in last year. Last year he received four intentional bases on balls...with the bases loaded.

Shane Henderson is a 6-3, 210-pound right-handed pitcher for Coach Larry Giangrasso at Central Alabama Community College, is originally from Trussville. As a freshman last year he appeared in 23 games with a 1-1 record and 13 saves. He had a 2.68 earned run average and had 46 strikeouts in 37 innings. He's the brother of current Tide Heath. At Hewitt-Trussville he had a 22-5 career record.

Also from Central Alabama is right-handed pitcher Keith Long, 6-2, 195, who was 6-3 with a 3.84 earned run average. He struck out 56 in 61 innings. He's from Alexander City, where he prepped at Benjamin Russell and was 7-1 with a 1.80 ERA as a senior.

Kevin Marzion, 6-1, 180, is a right-handed pitcher at Sacramento (California) Community College, where he will play as a freshman this year, then transfer to Alabama with three years of eligibility remaining.

Rock Mills, 6-1, 205, is a catcher and out-



Jeremy Brown

fielder from St. Edwards High School in Cleveland, Ohio. Last year he batted .548 with seven home runs and 32 runs batted in.

Scott McClanahan is a 6-3, 200 outfielder from Hartselle where he plays for Coach William Booth. Last year he batted .361 with nine home runs and 48 runs batted in. His father, Mark, played at Auburn and he has a sister at Auburn.

Frankie McGill is a 6-1, 195-pound right-handed pitcher from Tate High School in Pensacola, Florida.

Scott Murphy, 6-6, 210, is a right-handed pitcher from Lilburn, Georgia, where he was 4-2 with a 3.35 earned run average and 55 strikeouts in 37 innings for state champion Parkview High School last year.

Erik Smallwood is a 6-0, 190-pound infielder and outfielder at Pensacola Tate, where he is a teammate of McGill.

Gymnastics Coaches Sarah and David Patterson signed their 20th class this month, six in all, completing recruiting in the early signing period. There are two each from Texas and Maryland, one from Kentucky and one from Canada. Here is a look at the newest members of the gymnastics team:

An Elite Level Gymnast, Andree Pickens, from Houston, Texas, comes to the Tide from Cypress Academy, the same club team that produced former Alabama All-American Kim Bonaventura. Pickens was an alternate on the United States World Championship team in 1995. She finished 12th in the all around at the 1996 U.S. Olympic Trials. At the 1996 Australian Cup in Adelaide, South Australia, she finished third in the all around and second in the vault and uneven bars.

An Elite Level Gymnast, Natalie Barrington hails from Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, where she competed for

Gymnastics Mississauga. She is an alternate on the 1997 Canadian World Championship team that will compete in Lausanne, Switzerland in August. A member of the Canadian national team, Barrington finished seventh in the all around at the 1997 Canadian National Championships. She competed at the 1994 Pan American Games. She was the Elite Ontario - Provincial Champion in the all around.

Whitney Morgan signed with the Tide out of Louisville, Kentucky, where she competed for Southern Indiana Gymnastics School. Morgan was the 1997 Junior Olympic National All Around champion as well as earning Region V Gymnast of the Year honors. She won the vault at the 1996 Level 10 National Championships. A two-time member of the national team, she has qualified for the U.S. National Championships six times. As a Region V All-Star, Morgan will be traveling to Australia to compete.

Krista Gole is a three-time national championship competitor, having finished a high of fourth on the floor exercise. Gole comes to Alabama from Severna Park, Maryland, having trained at Docksiders. She was first at the 1997 Region 7 Championships in the all around and balance beam. She finished first at the 1997 Maryland State Championships in the all around, balance



Raegan Tomasek

beam, uneven bars and floor exercise.

An Elite Level Gymnast, Raegan Tomasek signed with the Tide out of Gaithersburg, Maryland where she competed for Hill's Angels gymnastics club. A member of the United States National Team, she paced the



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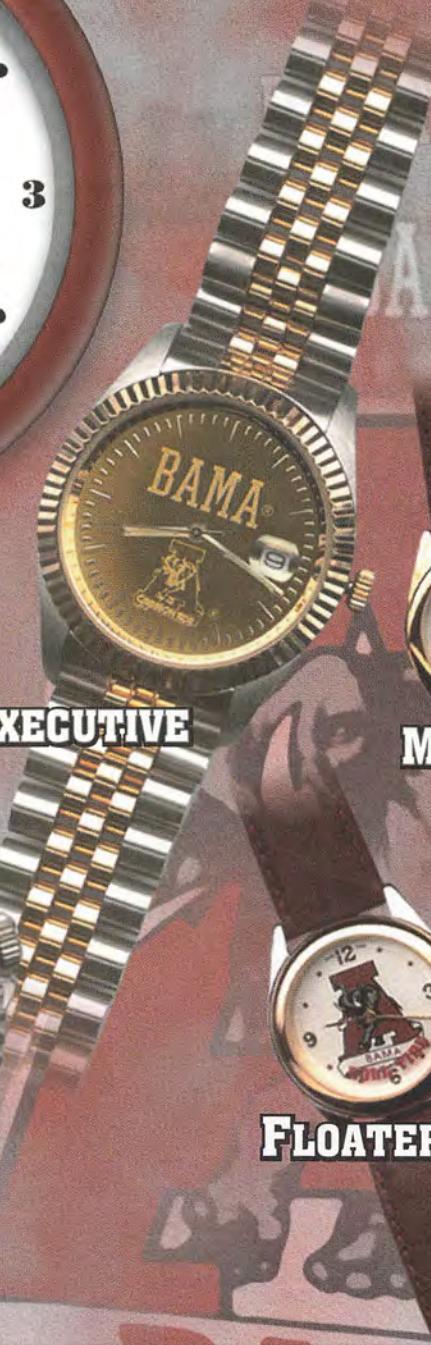
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SUN TIME
 THE LEADER IN LICENSED SPORTS WATCHES

Antoine Hunter:

Newest Tider Getting Into Action

by Donald F. Staffo

Surprised to be at Alabama instead of Clemson, junior cornerback glad to be Tider

Most Alabama football fans have little more than the barest of knowledge of junior cornerback Antoine Hunter. And yet Hunter played every defensive snap in the first game in which he started for Bama this year. The reason for the lack of information on Hunter is that he was not even a member of the Crimson Tide when practice started in the fall, thus not profiled in pre-season publications or even Alabama's football media guide.

Indeed, Hunter was in Clemson, South Carolina, preparing to play for the Tigers when Bama began three-a-day drills.

Hunter had been driven by his father to Clemson to begin practice on August 6. But when Hunter arrived, he was told that two grades he had made in a summer school course could not be accepted by Clemson because of Atlantic Coast Conference rules.

Clemson Defensive Coordinator Reggie Herring, who had recruited Hunter, knew the Southeastern Conference would accept the grades, and so he contacted various schools in the SEC to let them know of Hunter's availability.

Hunter and his father drove to Atlanta to spend the night. Numerous choices were available, Hunter said, including Auburn and Ole Miss. But Hunter had learned Alabama was short of cornerbacks and there was a good chance he could earn some playing time in a back-up role this year.

"The next morning we drove to Tuscaloosa," Hunter said. Hunter said that just over half a day after arriving he had taken a physical examination, been issued equipment, and was on the field practicing.

"I was shocked by the turn of events," Hunter said. "I had signed with Clemson

last November (in the early signing period for junior college transfers) and it never occurred to me I would play anywhere but Clemson."

Another person who was just as shocked as Hunter was Paul Hogan, a redshirt freshman center for Alabama who had been Hunter's teammate at Valdosta (Georgia) High School. Hogan was a year behind Hunter in high school. "Just a few days earlier I had seen Paul at the YMCA in Valdosta," Hunter said. "We talked about going away to school, him to Alabama and me to Clemson. He didn't know anything about what had happened, so he was surprised when I showed up here."

Hunter, 5-10 and 175 pounds, said that the turn of events "took some getting used to. It was strange at first because I didn't know anyone except Paul."

Hunter was able to make that adjustment, but it went rather slowly for a while. He settled into a practice routine, getting more and more work each day. He saw limited action in Bama's first five games. In the Tide's victory over Ole Miss in Oxford Hunter was in for only 12 plays, but made three unassisted tackles. And in that same game starting right cornerback Deshea Townsend pulled a hamstring muscle.

And so Hunter moved into the starting line-up.

"His situation was a little different from that of a typical high school senior or junior college transfer," said Curley Hallman, Bama's assistant coach in charge of the secondary. "It's been a bit of a change for him. In addition to the new situation, he hurt his shoulder and that bothered him for a couple of weeks. But Antoine has made a lot of progress. He's really improved and started to come around. I'm very pleased with him. He's a



Antoine Hunter arrived at Alabama after practice had already begun in August, but now he's had one start at cornerback and is an important part of Crimson Tide plans in the defensive backfield.

Barry Fikes Photo

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/DECEMBER '97

good player. I'm not worried about him. I feel comfortable with everything so far."

Hunter, who came in fourth in the state in the 200-yard dash in high school, didn't play football until his senior year at Valdosta. He wasn't all anything, and with academic deficiencies only a few small schools looked at him for football.

He finally selected Georgia Military College, a two-year school. His primary position in high school had been wide receiver, and that's where he played his first three games at Georgia Military. Then he was switched to defensive back. He made 35 tackles, including 24 solo, broke up six passes, caused three fumbles and recovered one. His football stock rose following his second season, when he was named among the top 16 junior college players in the nation at his position. Several Division I colleges came calling before he narrowed his choices to Clemson, Georgia, South Carolina and Louisville.

Georgia would seemingly have had an edge since Hunter's brother, Brice, was a four-year star for the Bulldogs, two-time all-

SEC and finished his career as Georgia's all-time leader in receptions (182) and touchdown catches (51). Drafted in the seventh round by the Miami Dolphins, Brice now plays for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

"I thought about it, but although Georgia was the right place for Brice, it just wasn't the place for me," said Antoine. "They had a lot of young defensive backs and with only two years of eligibility left, I was looking for someplace where I could contribute to the team early."

Hallman said that even with the return of Townsend, a senior, that Hunter, "if he keeps playing like he is now, will get increased playing time, especially in our nickel package."

Hallman said that he likes Hunter's toughness and the way he runs. "He's fast enough to play man-to-man and we're working with him on zone techniques," he said. "He's still getting used to recognizing all the different looks and formations." Hallman also said that he sees a bright football future for Hunter at Alabama. "He's definitely going to play; he'll play a big role from here on out."

Hunter said the adjustment from junior

college to Alabama was tougher mentally than physically. "We used to go full pads every day in junior college, so that's not a problem," he said. "I try to be physical. I work hard and try to hustle in practice on every play and then carry that over to game situations. I also try to take advantage of my speed (4.4 forty). The hardest part has been learning the terminology and all the different defenses."

After everything that has happened, Hunter said that he is glad that he's at Alabama. "I'm loving it here," he said. "There couldn't be a better place for me to play, with Alabama's rich football tradition. When I realized that I was going to play for Alabama, Bear Bryant and all that flashed through my mind. I don't have any regrets. I just want to make the most of the opportunity that I've been given."

And how is Brice, the former Bulldog, taking all this? "He's got no choice (but to pull for the Tide now)," said Antoine. "He's got to support me, like I supported him."

And Brice is supporting Hunter. Big brother's advice: "Only to be patient," Antoine said.

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He'll Always Be A Fullback

by Kirk McNair

Redshirt freshman likes his job as blocker, but would like chance to run with the ball

Some see Dustin McClintock as something of a throwback. He looks like an old-time fullback. McClintock, though, sees a fullback as absolutely necessary, no matter the offense. The 6-2, 240-pound redshirt freshman from Quinlan, Texas, doesn't think his job is obsolete. "You're always going to need a blocker," he said. "My job is to block."

McClintock, who runs a 4.7 40-yard dash, was a high school tailback and wouldn't mind getting his hands on the ball from time-to-time. He's had a few chances. When he went on a 26-yard run with his first career carry in Alabama's season-opening game, a victory over Houston, Tide fans thought Bama had a new offensive weapon. McClintock said, "It wasn't that hard. I never had a hole that big to run through, not even in high school."

McClintock knew when he was recruited that he would be expected to block. But he had earned all-state honors and was selected for the Texas-Oklahoma All-Star Game because of his running. As a prep senior for Coach Conley Bland he had 1,904 yards and 19 touchdowns.

For his high school career, McClintock rushed for 4,405 career yards. That's about 4,000 yards more than a fullback has been likely to rush for in recent years at Alabama.

McClintock was recruited by Gene Stallings. "Coach Stallings' name was well-known in my house," McClintock said. "He was from Paris, which isn't too far from Quinlan, and he had been with the Cowboys and the Cardinals." McClintock, a fan of the Dallas Cowboys, said he didn't follow college football much when he was in high school, other than watching televised games of Texas and Texas A&M, "but Coach Stallings filled me in on Alabama football tradition, and I started following them."

That tradition played a major role in Bama landing McClintock. "I realized when I was being recruiting that all schools didn't have the same type programs," he said. "I had committed to Purdue because I liked the offense they were in, using a big fullback and giving him the ball about 20 times a game. That seemed like the offense for me. But

when Alabama offered, I decided I'd rather have a chance to win a national championship by being a blocker."

And he wasn't surprised by his Alabama role. "They told me when they were recruiting me that my job would be to block," he said. "At first I didn't like it, but I knew that was what I was supposed to do. In fact, last year we only had one play for the fullback to run the ball; 34; right up the middle. We had a few passes, but we never called them."

Perhaps surprisingly, McClintock likes Alabama's move to a split back offense. For one thing he caught a touchdown pass out of it, a nice crossing play from Freddie Kitchens against Southern Miss. But more than that, "People think about the split back offense as being two tailbacks, and there is some of that, but the fullback is a big part of the passing game. And you still have to have a fullback for the short yardage and goaline situations."

He added, "Alabama has traditionally been an I-formation team. Even with the split backs, we'll keep the I package."

All-in-all, he said, "I think the split back offense is good for me. I can run, I can catch, and I can block, so there should be a role for me."

This year McClintock is behind Ed Scissum at fullback, but Scissum is a senior and there are no other true fullbacks on the team with Trevis Smith having moved back to linebacker. So McClintock's goal is predictable. He wants to start beginning as a sophomore in 1998. "I want to do the best I can," he said. "But my attitude has always been that I want to win at all costs, even if that means that I'm not the one playing. I'd rather be behind someone else and winning than playing and losing. Losing does not feel good."

McClintock is one of those rare players who is looking forward to spring training. "And before that, I need to get a lot stronger in the off-season program," he said. McClintock has already increased his strength significantly since arriving at Alabama prior to the 1996 season. He was redshirted that year and, as a member of the

scout team, "I got knocked around pretty good. I just wasn't strong enough. But the more work I got, the stronger I got and the more confident I got, and I think that has helped me this year."

As a true freshman in 1996, McClintock was on the travel squad for all games, which he believes was good experience for him. "That meant I was getting a lot of work and it gave me a lot of confidence for this year," he said. "When I got into my first game this year, I thought I was ready."

McClintock also had a good spring. Following practice, Bama coaches selected him as winner of the "Johnny Musso Most Improved Offensive Back" award.

He admitted he rarely lifted weights as a high school player. Part of the reason for that is he was always involved in a sport. In addition to football, he was a basketball and baseball player and also threw the shot put and discuss for the track and field team. "I like working in the weight room now," he said.

Last summer he decided to get stronger, and spent most of his off-season time in the weight room. In fact, he said, he spent too much time in the weight room and not enough time running. And he also spent too much time at the dinner table.

When McClintock reported for fall drills he was stronger, but he also weighed 265 pounds. "Coach (Mike) DuBose told me to lose 10 pounds or go back to Texas. I lost 20. I didn't want to take a chance." Now he's at what he considers his ideal playing weight, 240. "It took a lot of running and a lot of extra time with Coach Jones (Strength Coach Terry Jones), but I got that taken care of."

Next year his goals in the winter conditioning program and in the summer, in addition to continuing to work on his strength, will be to get faster and more agile. That means running.

McClintock doesn't have many outside interests. "Football and studying are about all there's time for," he said. But, he said, he occasionally gets together with two others who were freshmen with him last year, center Paul Hogan and linebacker Rob-E Staten, for basketball games at The University

Recreation Center. McClintock has already tried a couple of majors (marine biology and criminal justice), but still hasn't made a final decision. "I've got to do that pretty soon," he said.

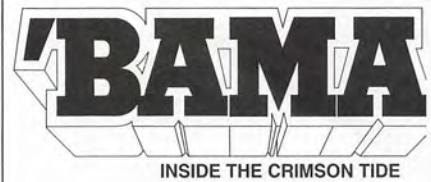
There has been some talk about another change for McClintock, but he doesn't think it will happen. "I've had people ask me

about playing tight end, particularly since this is Rod's (Rod Rutledge) last year," he said, "but I plan to be at fullback. That's another reason to keep my weight down." Fullback runs in the family, to some extent. "My grandfather's brother was a fullback at SMU, back when Doak Walker was the star," McClintock said.



Dustin McClintock had good success on his first career carry for Alabama, a 26-yard run against Houston in Bama's season-opening game this year. While McClintock understands his role is to block, he thinks he can also be an effective runner and pass-catcher from Alabama's split back offense.

Robert Sutton Photo



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Gymnastics Outlook:

PATTERSONS BEGIN 20TH GREAT YEAR

by Andrew Varble II

This Tide team also has components of champion

In July of 1978 Paul Bryant was on the verge of starting his 20th season as head football coach at Alabama, a season that would end with the Crimson Tide's fifth national championship under Bryant. It was also during that month, under his auspices, that a young—very young—gymnastics coach was hired. Sarah Campbell, then 22 years old, was originally hired to be an assistant coach. However, a letter arrived during the summer saying the head coach had resigned. Would she like the head-coaching job? The answer was yes, and in the midst of preparations for the Crimson Tide's 10th football championship, groundwork was laid for Alabama's first, second and third NCAA Gymnastics Championships.

Campbell immediately hired Crimson Tide undergraduate David Patterson as her assistant. The pair got under way, sharing practice facilities with women's basketball and volleyball. Quickly Alabama's gymnastics fortunes turned. A program without a winning record before the Pattersons arrival (the couple was married in 1982) went 16-4 in the duo's second season, producing more wins that year than the combined total in the four seasons before their arrival.

The years have rolled by with great success. In addition to a trio of NCAA crowns, Sarah and David have produced three Southeastern Conference championships and 11 NCAA individual titles.

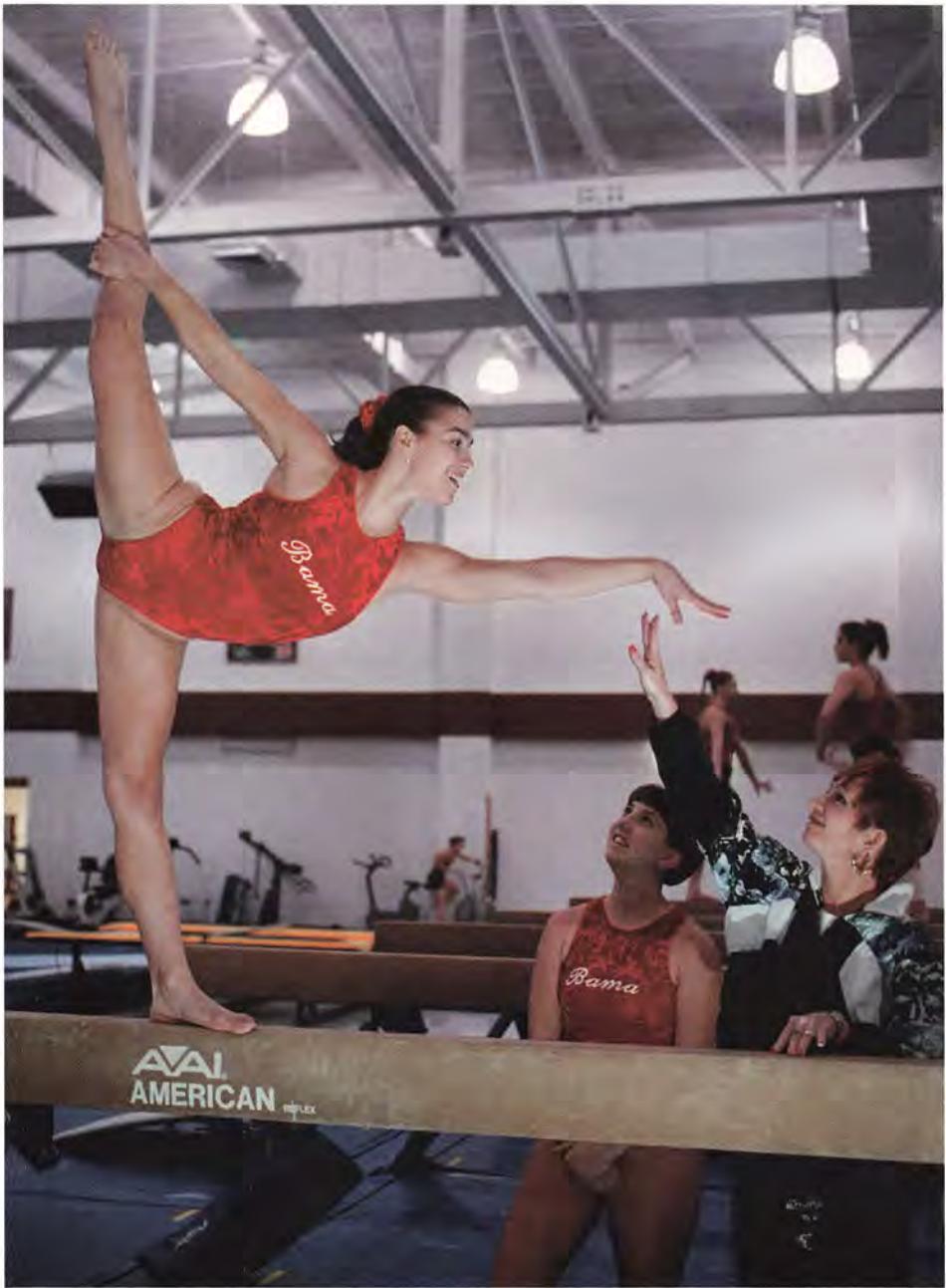
They have also watched Alabama football under five different head coaches. It was the first though, that made the biggest impact on Sarah. "I used to go and stand in the back of the room at his weekly press conferences," Sarah said. "I wanted to learn as much from him as I could about motivating people and coaching."

It must have worked. Sarah and David have produced 252 wins against 51 losses and three ties. They have coached 26 All-Americans who claim 93 honors among them.

They have also worked under six athletics directors. It was the second one that saw Sarah's knack for leadership and brought her

Alabama's 1998 gymnastics success will depend in great part upon the performances of seniors (left to right) Danielle McAdams, Shay Murphy and Merritt Booth, past All-America honorees.

Barry Fikes Photo



Mandy Chapman works on the beam while fellow junior Gwen Spidle and Coach Sarah Patterson observe. Bama's juniors and seniors are the strength of this year's Crimson Tide team. Barry Fikes Photo

post-collegiate success. Marie Robbins, a four-time All-America and holder of an NCAA and two SEC Championship rings, is currently Alabama's Associate Athletics Director for Compliance. The 1983 SEC floor exercise champion, Patti Rice, now Patti Eggers, is the Associate Director of Alabama's Master's of Business Administration program. All-America Barbara Mack, now Barbara Mack Harding, used her NCAA and SEC Postgraduate scholarships to attend Georgetown Law School. After a stint as prosecutor with the United States Department of Justice, she is now in private practice. Six-time All-America Julie Estin, now Julie Vaughn, is a Tuscaloosa area pediatrician. The list, like the beat, goes on.

The Pattersons' success includes far more than trophies and titles. Seven of their athletes have earned NCAA Postgraduate scholarships. Alabama gymnasts have earned Scholastics All-America honors 31 times since the awards inception in 1991.

Their athletes have enjoyed tremendous

Another measure of success is fan support, an area in which the Pattersons are off the charts. Alabama gymnastics averaged over 10,000 fans a meet last year. They sold out Coleman Coliseum for the first time in the history of women's athletics at The Capstone. More than 15,000 fans packed the Coliseum on February 1, 1997, to watch Alabama take on Georgia, setting school and SEC records for single meet attendance. A lack of seats was the only thing that stood between Alabama and the national record of 15,238 set by Utah in 1991. After all of the Coliseum's 15,043 seats were filled, some 400 ticket-seeking fans were turned away. There were also rumors of ticket scalpers. What better indicator is there that a program has arrived?

Now the Pattersons are embarked on their 20th season, and their 20th squad would seem to represent some of the best in Tide history. This 1998 edition is young, hungry and there is the type of team spirit that breeds championships. And while a lot of things must go right for a championship to materialize, the 13-woman band of gymnasts is definitely off to a good start.

"I'm excited about this group," Sarah said. "They came into the gym as soon as they could and they've worked very hard. There's a sense of togetherness and spirit that is the hallmark of a great team."

Alabama is led by its upper classmen. Each member of the junior and senior class has earned All-America honors. Senior Merritt Booth is a three-time floor exercise All-America. The Fort Worth, Texas, native will compete on the vault, uneven bars and floor exercise this season. Collinsville, Illinois, native Danielle McAdams posted a perfect 10.0 at the 1996 NCAA Championships to all but ensure the Tide's title. The senior also earned All-America in floor exercise and will see extensive all-around duties again this season. Alabama's third senior, Shay Murphy, earned second team All-America on balance beam in 1996. Last season the Canton, Michigan, native spent most of the season rehabilitating a torn anterior cruciate ligament. She came back in time to spark Alabama to its 15th NCAA Championship appearance. This season she will again see action on vault, balance beam and floor exercise.

The juniors, Mandy Chapman and Gwen Spidle, have both been All-America. Chapman competed in all-around several times last year and should do so again this season. A native of Greensboro, North Carolina, Chapman earned All-SEC last season in addition to second team balance beam All-America. Spidle competed in three events last season: balance beam, uneven bars and floor exercise, earning second team All-America honors on the floor. This season, with a change in the code of points, Spidle, a native of Gallatin, Missouri, could compete in the all-around.

Alabama's sophomore class of Lexa Evans, Becca Fields and Gina Logan, all competed in a reserve roll in 1997. Evans, a native of Gilford, New Hampshire, saw action in floor exercise. Indianapolis, Indiana, native Fields competed on vault. Logan, who hails from

Pass Christian, Mississippi, saw action on the floor, but will probably be used more this season on the balance beam.

The freshman class consists of five women, all of whom could make an immediate impact on the Tide's meet-day lineup. Robin Hawkins of Memphis, Tennessee, Katie Hornecker of Bloomingdale, Illinois, April Makinson of Seneca, South Carolina, Lissy Smith also of Memphis and Dara Stewart, an in-state product of Hoover, all have the ability to go all-around. All of the freshmen should see action.

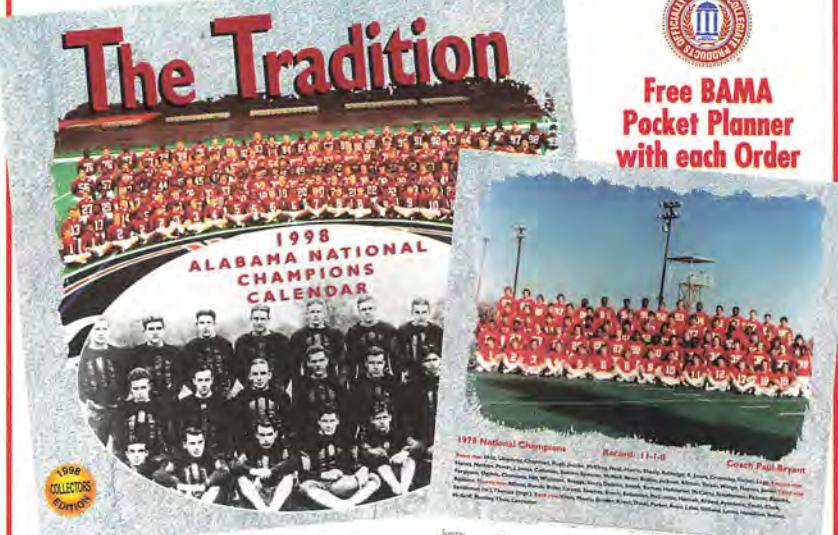
The run to Alabama's 16th consecutive NCAA Championship appearance will not be an easy

one. Six of the 12 teams that made it to last year's NCAA Championships are on the Tide's slate of opponents. Alabama opens its home season with Georgia, last year's number three squad, and ends it by hosting the 1998 NCAA Central Regional Championships on April 4.

And while the road to the top may not be a smooth and easy one, Alabama has several factors in its favor. Alabama's coaches are among the nation's best, the athletes are talented and determined and in this, the 10th anniversary of Alabama's first NCAA Championship, the Tide has the look—a championship look!

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Demetrius Alexander:

Senior Forward Expected To Lead

by Craig Threlkeld

Former junior college star has made the transition and now feels good about himself

For senior forward Demetrius Alexander in 1997-98, it's out of the frying pan and into the fire. Last year he found himself trying to help replace the rebounding hole left by Roy Rogers. Now he finds himself in a role of leadership for the Alabama men's basketball team.

Alexander got off to a great start last season, averaging 15 points and nine rebounds per game in the Top of the World Classic in Alaska. He also scored his career-high 23 points in the Tide's second win against Southern Illinois, a game in which he also pulled down 15 rebounds. Alabama won the tournament, Alexander earned membership to the All-Tournament team, and concerns of problems in the front court for the Tide

seemed to ease a little. Unfortunately, the entire season would not be so smooth.

Alexander stepped into the court to play in the post, an area vacated by current NBA player and shot-blocker extraordinaire Rogers. In truth, Alexander was never expected to completely fill the void left by Rogers' graduation. At 6-8 and 235 pounds, Alexander was brought in by Coach David Hobbs to shore things up on the boards and produce offensively. Offense was his specialty coming out of Hutchinson Junior College in Kansas, as he earned honorable mention All-America as a sophomore, scoring 19.4 points and grabbing 9.4 rebounds from the center position.

Alexander was recruited to play the three

position, small forward. But after Bama missed out on Donnie Johnson, a junior college forward with considerable rebounding prowess, Alexander found himself in an unfamiliar spot, the four, power forward. At Alabama, you play defense and you hit the boards hard, especially from the four spot. Defense was not Alexander's specialty coming from junior college, and he was now in that difficult transition period that most junior college transfers endure.

"Last season I did go through a transition," Alexander said. "The conditioning was harder, and of course you know that Coach Hobbs stresses defense a lot more than any other coach I've played for. It's not that I didn't play D, it's just that I never put that much emphasis on it before."

"The one thing that I realized right away, especially when we got into the SEC schedule, is that everyone is good at this level. I think I was ready to play physically, but the mental part of it came later."

Following the opening success in Alaska, Alexander's offensive success continued. He scored in double figures in the next five games, delighting the home crowd with fade-away jumpers and spin moves to the baseline. He even threw in a few threes and scored 14 in the Tide's upset win over Minnesota. He seemed to be making the transition pretty well.

Alexander prepped at Hazelwood Central in St. Louis, Missouri, averaging 25 points and 10 rebounds per game as a senior in 1994. Alexander led Hazelwood to a conference championship in 1993 and finished as runner-up in the state in 1994. He was a first-team All-State selection, along with Player of the Year in Missouri in 1994, his state's "Mr. Basketball."

Assistant Coach Bob Marlin was pivotal in bringing Alexander to The Capstone, due to his prior knowledge of Alexander from Marlin's days in junior college. Before joining the Bama staff, Marlin was head coach at Pensacola (Florida) Junior College and won a NJCAA championship in 1993. Marlin remembers recruiting Alexander then.

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"When I was at PJC I recruited him because he definitely had skills coming out of high school," Marlin said. "We didn't get him, and he won a championship at Hutchinson his sophomore year. Once I got here, I kept him on a short list of about five guys that I knew could help us. He was certainly more of a finesse player than a power player, but he can score and pass."

"We expected him, like most coaches expect of JC players, to come in and start, because there was a spot for him. He did that."

The attraction between Marlin and Alexander was mutual. Demetrius was sold on Alabama before he visited the campus, due in large part to Marlin and Darby Rich, a Hutchinson assistant coach and former Tide player.

"I always liked Alabama," Alexander said. "Really, I knew where I was going to sign before I took any visits. I like Coach Marlin and when I came on the visit I liked everything here."

According to college coaches, junior college transfers struggle primarily with consistency. Alexander was no exception. As the Southeastern Conference

schedule unfolded, Alexander exhibited a lack of consistency, due in part to the emphasized rebounding and defensive responsibilities. He found himself in a funk.

"Mentally I just didn't adapt quick enough," Alexander said. "I had to set my mind to the fact that I was capable of doing what the coaches wanted. Coach Hobbs and Coach Marlin both did a good job of convincing me that I could do it, and I really got hyped up toward the end of the season."

Alexander was scoring throughout the season, but Hobbs wanted more than that.

"One of the big problems Demetrius struggled with last season was inconsistency," Hobbs said. "He did not have the mentality every day in practice to come out and do what we needed him to do. That affected his playing time somewhat, but he stuck it out and got better in every area toward the end of the season."

Alexander recorded five double-doubles in 1996-97, three in SEC play and two of those near the end of the season when Alabama made its stretch run. For the season he averaged 12.0 points and 6.3 rebounds to lead the team on the boards with Eric Washington. He scored in double figures in

21 of the 31 games and started in 21 games. An increase in his work ethic translated into just under a double-double average of points and rebounds in the last five games, including tournament games with Florida and South Carolina.

Having been a coach at both levels, Marlin said Alexander's play last season was a little above honest expectations.

"Honestly, I really think Demetrius gave us a little more than what we anticipated," Marlin said. "He struggled some, and there were a few reasons for that. Making the transition from JUCO to Division I was part of that. He'll be the first to tell you that practice is more intense, you have to be more consistent, and the intensity in the games is different."

"Plus, at Hutchinson he was the biggest guy on the team, and here he is a 6-8 guy who turns baseline and finds a 6-11 guy waiting on him. But he made some big shots for us, and he played well off the bench and in the starting role."

So what does the senior from St. Louis expect from this season? First of all, he knows where he has to be and he's



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taken measures to get there. Alexander dropped 15 pounds over the summer while playing hoops in Pro-Am tournaments with the likes of Georgetown's Jahidi White and NBAer Anthony Bonner. In addition, Alexander's younger brother and sister got him hooked on swimming.

"I lost 10-15 pounds this summer by playing and swimming," Alexander said. "My brother and sister got me into their swimming hype, and I have to admit I am in better shape now. Plus, I'm more content with my ball-handling, running the floor, and shooting. I got some good work in summer leagues.

"I feel like that will help me adapt better in practice to what I need to do. Last season everything was totally new and more was expected of me than I thought I could give."

Alexander gained valuable insight last season after being thrown into "the fire" of added responsibilities and expectations with his position. Has that changed his outlook and style of game for this season?

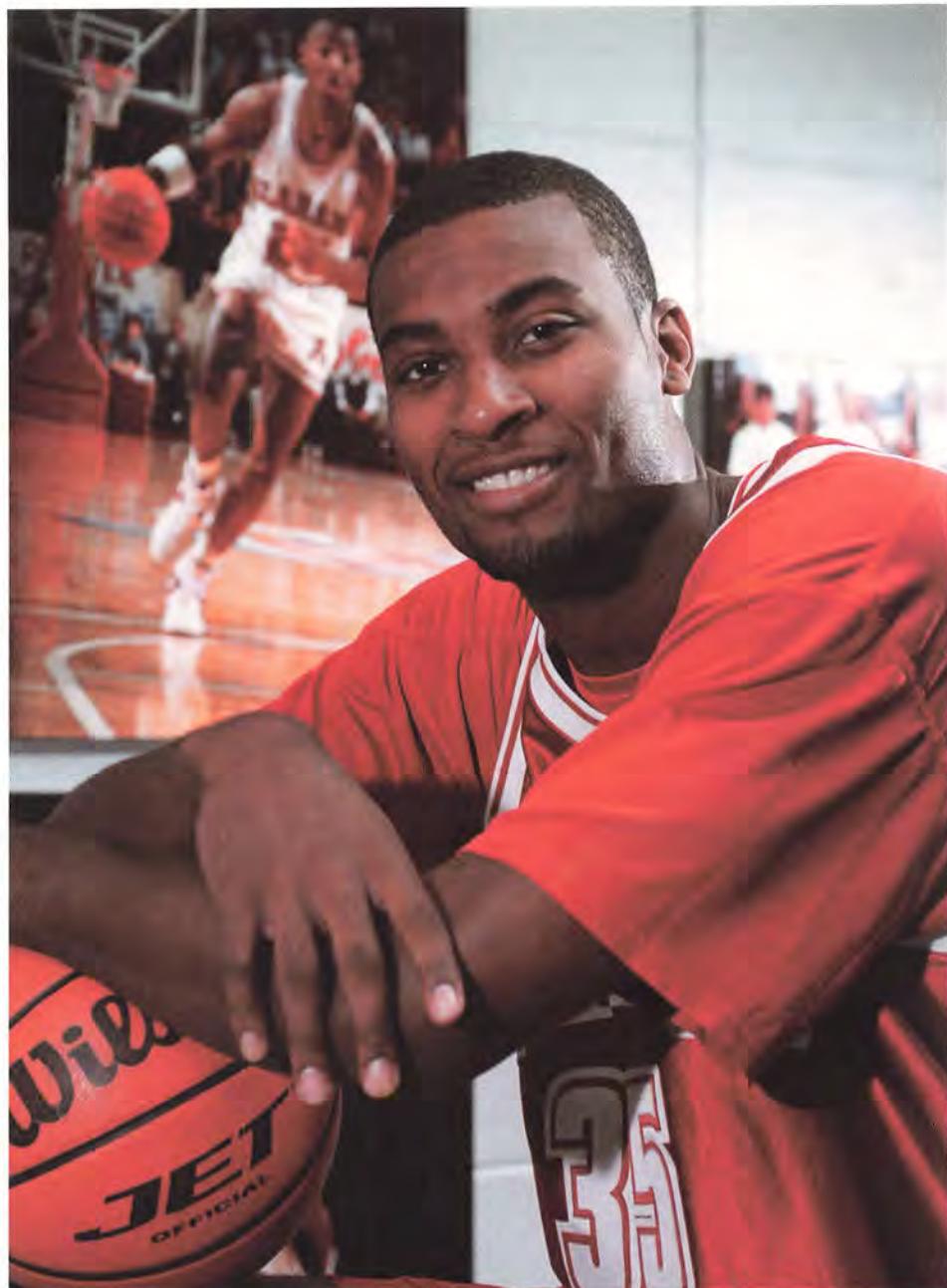
"I believe I'm more physical than I was last year," he said. "Since practice started I haven't really done anything with finesse. It's all been hard-nosed, get the ball and make a move with power. I like that kind of game, but right now I feel like I can go either way. If I have to go hard I can, but I can also use the finesse. I'll do whatever the situation dictates."

Alexander appreciates the drive of Hobbs to make his players better. "When I was a sophomore in high school I had a coach that really pushed me hard," Alexander remembered. "I guess he saw that I had potential because I was the only sophomore on the team, but other than that no one has ever been close to Coach Hobbs. The way he gets on you and stays on you, including the yelling, just really makes you strong and pushes you to work that much harder to get him off of you."

And what does Hobbs expect from his senior forward? "Demetrius has already taken steps to be better than he was last season," Hobbs said. "Last season his body was softer and a little heavier than it is now, and being in better condition will only help him. Plus, he learned what it takes to play in the SEC.

"He is our most experienced inside player in terms of playing time, and we will underscore how much we need him to play well for us to have success. But he will have to make himself do it. He will have to come out every day and develop the habits that will help him carry over into the game."

Demetrius was ready for 1997-98 to begin,



Demetrius Alexander had a good year statistically for Bama in his first year with the Tide, but as a senior the expectations for him are even greater.

Barry Fikes Photo

because he is excited about the additions to the team. A couple of junior college players in point man Chauncey Jones and small forward Chris Rollins and freshman point guard Tarik London are expected to dramatically improve the Tide's perimeter game by joining with Brian Williams. Alexander will be a key inside, but now he says that Bama is not a one or two player team.

"Teams are going to have to play us as a team now," he said. "That will take a lot of added defensive attention away from me,

and right now we have a lot of weapons in guys that can do a lot of different things."

Alexander's goals for himself are simplistic. Improve your own game and let that carry over to the team.

"My work ethic and leadership are the two most important things," he said. "If I go out and work hard everyday, then that will not only better my team but it will better myself. I think that's what the team needs right now. If the upperclassmen are working hard, then the others will too."

South Has Some Of Best Big Men

by Craig Threlkeld

Here's another look at top prep football prospects

Although most of the headlines go to the skill position players, the difference between good teams and average teams (and between great teams and good teams and average teams and poor teams) is usually the big men.

Offensive and defensive linemen, linebackers and tight ends play where it's tough and dirty, and football is a tough and dirty game. Alabama needs to have a big year recruiting the big guys, perhaps as many as 10 linemen, a couple of tight ends and a handful of linebackers. While the Crimson Tide first takes care of recruiting business within the boundaries of the state, Bama's best teams have traditionally included good players from outside the state. And Alabama usually attracts those additions from the neighboring states of the Southeast.

This is not The University of Alabama's list of prospects, but rather a compilation of the top prospects in the Southeast as determined by various recruiting and school publications and from newspaper reports. No doubt Alabama is recruiting some of these, and there is also an excellent chance Bama recruiters are seeking some not on this list. These prospects are listed by state and alphabetically.

FLORIDA

Jason Collier is a 6-6, 340-pound offensive lineman who knows how to win. Playing for Lake Butler Union County, Collier led his team to its third consecutive state title. For a

man his size, Collier is a great athlete who can move with speed. He was the best blocker on his team, often used to pull due to his speed and good footwork. He is clocked at 5 flat in the 40 and has good strength with a 345-pound bench press. He was the state shot put champion with a throw of 56-11 (although a technicality regarding his uniform nullified the toss).

Kenlun Dawson is a 6-6, 285-pound offensive lineman from Selfner Armwood, who may be overshadowed by his line partner Mike Pearson. Dawson possesses great strength, as his bench press of 415 pounds is one of the top in the state of Florida. Dawson runs a 5.2 in the 40.

Aaron Deal is a 6-7, 290-pound offensive lineman from Fort Walton Beach Choctawhatchee. Deal made second-team Class 6A all-state last season, and is a good athlete who bench presses 300 pounds and runs a 5.3 in the 40. A three-year starter, Deal is also a very good long snapper. He was also selected as a *PrepStar* All-America in 1997. He has qualified with a 3.2 GPA and may be drafted as a baseball player in June. He is being heavily sought after by Notre Dame, Nebraska, Florida, FSU, Ohio State and LSU, as well as Bama.

Michael Hamilton is a 6-4, 215-pound linebacker prospect from Madison County. Hamilton has been grouped with fellow linebackers Witherspoon and Ferguson as a trio that has possibilities of becoming top ranked recruits in the state. Hamilton is a very active linebacker who was all-state, all-district and honorable mention All-Big Bend and a junior All-America. With 4.65 speed he covers from sideline to sideline and brings a load with him to the ball carrier. He registered 147 tackles, 13 tackles for loss, 10 sacks and

caused three fumbles. He has decent strength with a bench press of 250 and a squat of 405.

Steve Handras is a 6-5, 310-pound offensive lineman who comes from a Boca Raton Spanish River program known for good linemen. He graded 88 per cent in blocking efficiency for Coach Paul Lombardo in an offense which runs 90 per cent of the time. Lombardo says he is as good as former pupil Anthony Phillips who now plays for FSU. Handras is a hard working player who benches 315 and squats 500. He carries a 3.22 GPA and has already scored a 25 on the ACT.

Jamaal Jackson's only limitation is himself. At 6-3 and 290 Jackson runs a 5.0 in the 40 and is a very imposing physical specimen. Jackson can dominate the line of scrimmage with the best at times, but has a tendency to take plays off. Coaches and recruiters say he can be as good as he wants to be.

David Jenkins, Jr. is a teammate of James Collier on the state championship Union County team in Lake Butler. "J.R." is considered by many to be a player who can't miss because of his athleticism and 4.5 speed. He is a linebacker who plays with aggression and leadership. He was deemed the second-best player for Union County, a team that had players sign with Florida, Alabama (Andrew Zow) and Auburn. He had 115 tackles, four sacks, three interceptions (one for a touchdown) and two fumble recoveries (one for a touchdown) in only seven games last season. He broke his leg in the seventh game of last season but is back healthy. He also is successful in track, winning the state 110 meter high hurdle championship as a freshman and a junior.

Larrell Johnson is a 6-3, 240-pound linebacker who rates among the top five linebackers in Tampa and among the best in the state. He is a hard-nosed type of linebacker

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who plays aggressively and who is very tough mentally. He gets away from blockers well and could possibly grow into a defensive end. He recorded 105 tackles, three sacks, one interception, three caused fumbles and two fumble recoveries for Robinson High last season. He earned honorable mention all-county honors last year and camped at Central Florida and South Florida.

David Kearley was a sleeper heading into his senior season for Niceville. A 6-6, 310-pound offensive line prospect, many felt Kearley would be one of the top players in the Panhandle this season. He hails from the same school as former Tide receiver Marcell West, and many feel that with a little work he will certainly be a keeper. He bench presses 350 and squats 500 and does well in the classroom with a 3.5 GPA. He plans to major in pre-med and has visited Alabama.

Shevin Marshall is a 6-2, 225-pound linebacker from Homestead South Dade and teammate of linemen Osa Nosa. Marshall committed to Miami during the spring. He runs a 4.6 in the 40 and has already qualified with an 890 SAT score. He was a preseason *PrepStar* All-America.

Isaac Morford is a 6-5, 275-pound offensive lineman from Keystone Heights. He is considered the small school's best player since current Auburn star Jimmy Brumbaugh. Morford plays all three line positions, carries a 4.3 GPA and scored a 25 on his ACT as a sophomore. He was a first team Class 3A all-state selection last season and is a four-year starter. Florida, FSU, Alabama, Auburn, Nebraska and UNC are looking at Morford.

Johnovan Morgan is another player who many expected to come into his own as a senior. A 6-4, 266-pound defensive end, Morgan was an All-Dade honorable mention pick as a junior defensive end for Carol City after also rating as one of the top tight end prospects in South Florida. Morgan dominates in run blocking for one of the top rushing offenses in the state, but also caught 10 passes for 250 yards and three touchdowns as a junior tight end. He specialized on defense this season and will probably play there in college. He benches 345 and squats 605. Tide fans will be interested to know he is a half brother to Tide and NFL great Derrick Thomas and has visited Alabama this fall.

Osa Nosa is a 6-2, 295-pound terror at nose-tackle. Playing for Homestead South Dade, Nosa led his team to an unbeaten season last year. He put on a little weight prior to last season, then lost it again and is one of the strongest prospects in the state of Florida. He benches 420 pounds and his strength transfers down into his lower body, allowing him tremendous leg drive to push blockers backwards. He is a very tenacious player who rated as one of the state's top defensive linemen and a *PrepStar* preseason All-America candidate.

Mike Pearson is a 6-7, 275-pound offensive lineman from Seffner High in Armwood. Recruiters like Pearson's footwork, enough so that he made the *PrepStar* 1997 Dream Team despite needing some work in the weight room. Pearson currently bench presses 305 pounds, and boasts a 3.9 GPA and a 930 on the SAT. He is said to be leaning to the Gators.

Ryan Pickett is a 6-3, 280-pound defensive

line prospect from Zephyrhills. The younger brother of former Miami linebacker Booker Pickett, many feel Ryan is the best to come out of the school in over ten years. He bench presses 350 and earned third-team Class 4A all-state as a junior. He has tremendous up-field rush and tallied 72 solo tackles, 33 assists, 14 sacks, 23 tackles for losses, three fumble recoveries and four caused fumbles last season. He is also a member of the *PrepStar* SEC Region Super 25. Ohio State and Michigan are his top choices, but Alabama is in the mix.

Adam Shuler is a 6-3, 245-pound tight end from Orlando Evans. The state has been developing outstanding tight ends for a while now, and Shuler continues the trend. An impressive physical specimen, he runs well and is one of the highest rated prospects in Central Florida.

Dwight Slater is an offensive line prospect who defines the term student-athlete. A 6-4, 275-pound center from Miami Southridge, Slater carries a 4.4 GPA and scored 1180 on the SAT. Despite somewhat lacking in strength, Slater dominates his opponents with great technique to the tune of a 90 per cent grade last season. He has very good footwork and understands the role of positioning in offensive line play. Many feel he was one of the top centers in the South and was an all-county and second team all-state selection last season. With some work in the weightroom, Slater will develop into another top offensive lineman from this state.

Jason Townsend executes run blocking to perfection. A 6-3, 285-pound offensive guard from Spanish River, Townsend graded 85 per cent as a junior. He has good feet and quickness off the ball. An offensive line with Townsend and teammate Steve Handras quite imposing for opposing defenses. Townsend also played defense as a senior because of his versatility and could get attention on either side of the ball.

Aaron Walker is a 6-6, 225-pound tight end prospect from Titusville. He took official visits to Northwestern, Duke and Notre Dame, but he also lists several schools including Alabama, and he has no favorite.

Corey Whitaker is a 6-4, 285-pound offensive guard from Pace. He really came on as a senior after grading 82 per cent as a junior. Whitaker fires off the ball quickly and his strength usually puts him over the top of most opponents. He bench presses 405 and squats 500. Hailing from a school that produced Thad Busby (FSU) and Eric Johnson (Florida), Whitaker was an All-Northwest Florida honorable mention selection last season. South Carolina, Alabama, Florida State, Florida, Miami and Georgia Tech are his favorites.

Andrew Williams is another top linebacker prospect. From Tampa, Williams goes 6-3 and 235 pounds at defensive end. At his weight, many scouts feel he is better suited at outside linebacker because of his 4.6 speed. Regardless of being undersized, Williams dominated in the Class 6A state playoffs last season even though his team fell a game short in the state finals. Williams was a Class 6A all-state selection last season, registering more than 100 tackles and 11 sacks.

Brett Williams is a 6-6, 310-pound offensive lineman from Kissimmee Osceola. He is also a

member of the *PrepStar* SEC Region Super 25. Williams is considered by some to be the top prospect in the state—at any position. Williams is the best offensive lineman to come out of Central Florida in about 10 years and plays with an aggression that few can match. He is quick for his size and does not take plays off. He was a consensus Class 5A all-state selection last fall, and also won state titles in the discus and shot put. He benches 370. FSU is considered the leader with Alabama and Florida in the hunt.

William Witherspoon is a converted defensive end now playing linebacker and projected as one of the top in the South. At 6-3 and 218 pounds, he recorded 15 sacks last season as an undersized end. He has good speed at 4.55 in the 40, and is a good student as well with a 3.1 GPA and a 21 on the ACT. He was a Class 5A all-state selection who led his team to the state semifinals. He is also a member of the *PrepStar* SEC Region Super 25, and he will major in engineering.

GEORGIA

Rodney Bailey is a 6-4, 215-pound member of the 1997 *PrepStar* SEC Region Super 25 at linebacker. His brothers Champ and Ronald are already playing at Georgia, but many feel Rodney has a chance to better his siblings. Faster and more athletic than the two, he is considered by some to be the top player in the state of Georgia at Folkston Charlton County. On offense he plays quarterback and passed for 963 yards and 14 touchdowns last season, while rushing for 617 yards and 15 touchdowns. On defense he posted 60 tackles, one sack, two interceptions and one fumble recovery. With 4.38 speed, he is the state's 110 meter hurdle champion. He bench presses 350 pounds. Georgia is the leader, but Alabama is among many others pursuing.

Eric Boyd is a 6-1, 220-pound linebacker prospect from Louisville Jefferson County. Despite being slowed with a dislocated shoulder injury last season, Boyd recorded 117 tackles and two sacks. He undoubtedly has opened the eyes of many recruiters this season after beginning as a sleeper. He bench presses 290 and squats 430, running a 4.6 in the 40.

Gary Byrd is a 6-6, 230-pound offensive lineman from Stone Mountain. Byrd is considered one of the top five offensive linemen in the Peach State, as he is strong, quick, intelligent and aggressive. He graded out at 90 per cent as a junior in blocking efficiency and did not allow a sack through the beginning of his senior season. He also played well defensively, recording 85 tackles, 15 tackles for losses and five sacks as a junior. He bench presses 380 pounds, squats 560 and has a 2.5 GPA. He is also a member of the *PrepStar* SEC Region Super 25.

Jason Carroll is a 6-6, 305-pound offensive line prospect from Dalton. Jason is a versatile athlete who averaged nearly three pancake blocks per game as a junior from his right guard position. A big man with good feet and quickness, Jason may move to tackle in college. Selected to all-area, All-North Georgia and second team All Tri-State teams as a junior, Carroll possesses solid blocking ability. Tennessee, Auburn, Alabama, Clemson, Georgia, Michigan, Florida and Georgia Tech are interested.

Jeremy Carroll is the twin brother of Jason Carroll, although not quite as big. At 6-6 and 287 pounds, Jeremy is big enough to join his brother along the offensive front for Dalton. Jeremy is a good pass blocker who is athletic enough with quickness to protect the quarterback from either tackle position. He also was all-area, All-North Georgia and second-team all tri-state. He bench presses 350 and squats 450 pounds. The brothers would like to attend the same school if at all possible. The same schools are pursuing him.

George Foster is a steal waiting to happen. At 6-6 and 295, Foster showed well at camps this summer and is waiting to be honed into a very fine lineman. Most feel he has unlimited potential that needs to be developed. He is said to have Bama on his list.

Tony Gilbert at Macon Central is considered one of the top middle linebacker prospects in the state and should rank high in the South as well. At 6-0 and 225, Gilbert runs a 4.64 in the 40 and recorded a team-high 100 tackles with 10 sacks, one interception, one fumble recovery and three caused fumbles last season. He is a vicious hitter with the killer mentality needed in a middle linebacker. He was an All-Central Georgia and all-state honorable mention pick as a junior. He is a four-year starter with a 30-inch vertical leap and has good strength with a bench of 330 and squat of 700.

Charles Grant is another of the state's top linebackers and a sure bet to earn membership to an all-star team. At 6-4 and 230, Grant is an extremely physical player who also runs well. He could realistically play linebacker, defensive end or tight end in college. As a running back he rushed for 2,160 yards as a junior, with 107 tackles and two sacks at linebacker. He led Miller of Colquitt to a 10-2 record and to the second round of the Class 2A state playoffs. He benches 345, squats 450 and runs a 4.6 in the 40. With his speed and athletic ability he can cover and his coach says he has no weakness at the high school level. He also plays basketball.

Edward Kendrick, III, is a 6-4, 230-pound tight end from Macon Mount DeSales. Kendrick boasts tremendous lower body strength with a squat of 600 pounds and can play either defensive end or tight end. As a blocker, Kendrick is overpowering with strength and footwork once he locks up on the opposition. Offensively, he tallied 17 receptions for 386 yards and seven touchdowns as a junior. On the other side, he notched 86 tackles and seven sacks. He runs a 4.8 in the 40 and has a 3.3 GPA. Georgia, Georgia Tech, Tennessee, Virginia, Florida and Alabama are interested.

Ian Knight is a 6-5, 235-pound defensive end from Snellville Brookwood. Recruiting guru Max Emfinger rated Knight one of the top 13 strongside defensive ends in the South, and he rates as a first team all-region selection by *PrepStar*. An athlete who can play both sides of the ball, Knight is a tremendous run blocker who played tight end on a run-oriented team. Defensively he recorded 90 tackles and had eight sacks for a state champion. Georgia, Georgia Tech, Notre Dame, Michigan, Florida and Alabama are taking a look at Knight.

Ben Lowe is a 6-4, 265-pound offensive lineman from Thomaston Upson Lee. Possessing great strength in combination with agility and good feet, Lowe is one of the most sought after players in the South. He showed well at every camp he attended, including Ole Miss, FSU and Georgia. His father, Ronnie, played at FSU in 1968 and 69, and he is considering FSU, Georgia, Alabama and Notre Dame.

James McCoy is a 6-4, 245-pound line prospect from Baxley Appling County. Clocked at 4.8 in the 40, McCoy has untapped ability. Intelligent, quick and aggressive, McCoy is another that can, given a little time, develop into something special. He bench presses 320, squats 480 and has scored 1010 on the SAT. .

Jesse Miller is considered one of the South's top linebacker prospects at 6-3 and 235

pounds. He hails from Sandersville Washington County. A smart player, Miller has the ability to shed blockers and pursues to the ball extremely well. He posted 127 tackles, 13 sacks and 30 tackles for losses from either a defensive end or outside linebacker position. He runs well with a 4.6 in the 40, and All-Central Savannah River Area, all-region, all-state and Heart of Georgia All-Stars honors followed him after the 1996 season. Miller and Rodney Bailey are considered the top linebacker in the state. Alabama is one of a large number of schools in the hunt.

Tully Payne is "a hard worker who does so much more than we ask him," said his coach Clay Hill. Payne is a 6-2, 250-pound line prospect from Cordele Crisp County. He battled Auburn signees Josh Weldon and Whit Smith to a standoff and graded 89 per cent blocking as a junior. Payne runs a 4.9 in the 40 and has looked at South Carolina, Notre Dame, Auburn, Kentucky, Florida and Alabama. He has a 3.7 GPA and scored 870 on the SAT prior to this season.

Travis Roberts is a 6-2, 210-pound linebacker prospect from Folkston Charlton County. Another in the good crop of Georgia linebackers, Roberts could be a steal from a team loaded with Division I prospects. Good speed at 4.58 in the 40 allowed him to make plays by running past linemen to make up for being somewhat undersized. He recorded 50 tackles, three sacks, 15 tackles for losses, caused three fumbles and recovered two last season. He has a 3.5 GPA and every school that has seen him play has offered a scholarship. Notre Dame, Alabama, Tennessee, Virginia Tech, Clemson, Georgia Tech and Georgia are looking at Roberts.

Derek Sanders is a 6-5, 245-pound defensive lineman who tops the list of pass rushers in the South. Sanders is from Sandersville Washington County and was selected by *PrepStar* as a preseason All-America candidate. Sanders uses great technique and has a variety of moves to defeat blockers. Strength allows

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him to bull rush or with good feet and quickness (4.8) he can put moves on them and take them out of position. Sanders is said to be considering Alabama, Georgia and Georgia Tech.

Terin Smith is also a defensive line prospect, some feel the second best in the region behind Sanders. At 6-4 and 230 pounds, Smith runs a 4.47 in the 40 which makes him an excellent pass rusher. He posted 60 tackles and eight sacks as a junior last season, most of them in pursuit. He earned first team all-region honors as both defensive end and tight end. He caught 13 passes for 550 yards and nine touchdowns also last year. He bench presses 300 pounds and squats 475. He is also a member of the *PrepStar* SEC Region Super 25. Bama is one of a large number of schools in pursuit.

Keith Stephens is another member of the *PrepStar* SEC Region Super 25. At 6-3 and 315 pounds, Stephens is a huge prospect who can move. He benches 400 and squats 525, so his strength and agility make him hard to contain. He has good technique and drive blocks well, and is considered one of the top three line prospects in the state. He was all bi-city and all-state as a junior. He registered 69 pancake blocks as a junior and tallied 29 solo tackles, 33 assisted, 12 for losses and eight sacks on defense. He camped at Georgia.

Derek Walker is a 6-5, 250-pound defensive line prospect from Sandersville Washington County. A teammate of Derrick Sanders, Walker missed his junior season due to academic problems. Alabama ranks among the leaders.

Chad Young is a 6-4, 284-pound offensive tackle from Dalton Northwest Whitfield. Young began to show his wares with a solid junior season, grading out at 84 per cent or better in every game at offensive tackle. He also played defensive tackle as a junior, recording 72 tackles and six sacks. He benches 365 and finished second at Reebok's Southeast Combine with 29 reps on 185-pound presses. He also wrestles and plays basketball. Alabama ranks among his favorites.

KENTUCKY

Bernard Jackson is a 6-4, 247-pound linebacker from Louis-St. Xavier. Jackson is a relentless pursuer and is as hard-hitting as they come. Last season he had 98 tackles, 15 sacks, caused five fumbles and intercepted three balls. With 4.7 speed he has the complete package of size, speed and strength. He is also a member of the *PrepStar* SEC Region Super 25. Kentucky, Ohio State, FSU, Tennessee, North Carolina and Alabama are in the hunt.

Dennis Johnson is a member of the *PrepStar* Defensive Line Dream Team from Harrodsburg. At 6-7 and 250 pounds, Johnson is considered by some as the top defensive end in the nation. He is a three-sport star in football, basketball and track. On the gridiron he accounted for 145 tackles, 35 solos, 18 sacks, 40 tackles for losses caused five fumbles and recovered six fumbles. Johnson has size and speed with a 4.7 in the 40, along with balance and strength. He benches 315 pounds and squats 525. He plays with intensity and is very aggressive, and many liken him to former NFL star Lawrence Taylor. Alabama is one of only

many in pursuit.

Julius Yeast is a 6-5, 235-pound defensive line prospect from Harrodsburg. Yeast is rated Dixie's eighth-best pass rusher by Max Emfinger and earned preseason All-America honors from *PrepStar*. Another defensive end with linebacker speed, Yeast uses great techniques to make plays. Julius has a great combination of ability of run-stopper and pass rusher. He had 15 solo and 88 assisted tackles, along with 19 sacks, 28 tackles for losses and three interceptions as a junior.

LOUISIANA

Dwayne Beverly is a man at 6-2 and 290. The defensive line prospect benches 510 pounds and squats 605. Because of the tremendous strength no blocker can handle him one-on-one, so Beverly always draws double and triple teaming. Regardless, he recorded 75 tackles and 15 sacks as a junior. He was an all-district selection the past two seasons.

At 6-4 and 268 pounds, Chris Bullock from Destrehan is one of Louisiana's top offensive linemen prospects. Rangy, good feet and quickness are strengths of Bullock, along with a bench press of 350 and a squat of 525. He was all-district as a junior and has started since ninth grade. He also throws the shot and the discus on the track team and played some defensive tackle this season.

Howard Green is a 6-4, 305-pound defensive lineman from Donaldsville. A first cousin of LSU star Jarvis Green, Howard is very mobile and aggressive. He goes 100 per cent on every play, and earned All-district honors as a junior at defensive end. At offensive guard, he earned all-district, All-Metro, and all-state membership. On defense he posted 72 tackles and eight sacks as a junior with four fumble recoveries. He also throws the discus and the shot put on the track team. A durable player, Green played 95 per cent of snaps as a junior. Green benches 380 and squats 555. He is also a member of the *PrepStar* SEC Region Super 25. Green has camped at LSU.

MISSISSIPPI

Lethero Collier is a 6-3, 220-pound linebacker prospect from Brandon. One of the state's top linebacker prospects, Collier started for the first time last season as a junior, but had a good year and camped at Ole Miss. He is a very disciplined middle linebacker who plays both the run and pass well and runs with 4.7 speed. As a junior he recorded 76 tackles with four sacks, four caused fumbles and one interception. He worked on his strength in the off-season and entered his senior campaign bench pressing 225 and squatting 300.

Percy Donaldson is probably undersized at 6-0 and 211 for middle linebacker, but from his play you wouldn't know it. Percy runs with 4.6 speed to the ball and brings a bad attitude when he gets there. A middle linebacker in a 4-3 scheme at Jackson Provine, Donaldson sheds blocker well with several techniques and blows through holes to ball carriers. Last season he recorded 173 tackles with three sacks and caused four fumbles. He was a second-team All-Metro and first-team all-district as a junior and also runs track. He has qualified academically and camped at Ole Miss.

Orlando Dotson combines size and speed at a defensive line spot to create havoc in opposing backfields. At 6-3 and 230 pounds, his

specialty is rushing the passer due to his quickness and lack of size at defensive end. He benches 300 and squats 400 pounds, and posted 50 tackles and five sacks last season. He also saw some time at tight end, but is expected to be a pass rusher in college. He has a 3.2 GPA with a 22 on the ACT.

Tyrone Green is one of the state's top offensive line prospects from Ripley. At 6-4 and 275, he started for the first time last season, but is intelligent and picked up the assignments without delay. Last season he played for Ripley and earned all-district, all-area and all-county honors. This year he played at Shannon and had to adjust from a run-oriented attack to a passing game. His versatility is a characteristic that recruiters like. He benches 290 and squats 500. He showed well at the Ole Miss camp during the summer.

Marcus Greer's stock rose as a senior and now many are excited about him. A 6-4 and 250-pound defensive line prospect from Greenwood, Greer has the frame to gain 25 or 30 pounds while remaining quick and very mobile at 4.8 in the 40. Greer has long arms and a great range with technique that enables him to beat blockers and get to the quarterback. He moves along the line of scrimmage very well due to good footwork. Greer could be a sleeper for someone.

Mario Haggan follows in the long tradition of good players from Clarksdale. A 6-4, 250-pound defensive lineman, Mario plays inside linebacker, but could move to a down spot in college. He possesses very good quickness and knows how to get to the football. He registered 115 tackles, four sacks and three fumble recoveries as a junior and earned all-division, all-conference and honorable mention all-state honors. He is a three-year starter who has good strength with a bench of 325. He camped at Ole Miss and Mississippi State last summer.

Preston McDonnell is a 6-5, 270-pound defensive lineman who has escaped major publicity prior to this season. Playing for Copiah Academy, McDonnell runs a 5.0 in the 40 and bench presses 375 pounds. He is a two-year starter and all-conference selection for Copiah and is termed an aggressive, physical player who is best suited for SEC football. Most schools are after McDonnell for his play defensively, but he can play on the other side as well. He also plays center for the basketball team and plays tennis. He has a 3.9 GPA and a 22 on the ACT. He is now drawing lots of attention. He has made most national recruiting lists including *SuperPrep* and lists his top choices as Ole Miss, LSU, Alabama and Mississippi State.

Will Overstreet is a 6-4, 250-pound defensive end from Jackson Prep. He runs a 4.59 in the 40, is a national merit scholar and is one of the most sought-after players in the state. Overstreet has played on both sides of the ball as a three-year starter, recording 84 tackles, seven sacks and 5 hurries as a junior. On offense he pass blocks extremely well and explodes off the blocks. He has a 28-inch vertical leap and is also a starter on the basketball team. He is big, strong and fast and Coach Ricky Black says his work ethic and attitude are also quite impressive. He is listed as a top recruit by almost every recruiting organization in the country. Alabama, Ole Miss, North

Carolina, Virginia and Stanford are his top choices.

Joe Rush plays just like his first cousin Derek Rush, currently at Mississippi State. He is a hard-hitter who plays with a great deal of intensity, filling gaps quickly from a middle linebacker position along with good lateral mobility. At 6-2 and 230 Rush runs a 4.6 in the 40, benches 325 and squats 405. A three-year starter, he posted more than 100 tackles, five sacks and three fumble recoveries as a junior and earned all-district honors. He also boasts a 3.7 GPA.

Conner Stephens is a 6-5, 237-pound tight end and defensive line prospect from Ackerman. Listed as a member of the *Clarion Ledger* Dandy Dozen, Stephens is the son of former Cincinnati Bengal Joe Stephens. He runs a 4.56 in the 40 and bench presses 385. Last season Conner had 138 tackles and 15 sacks on defense, adding six touchdown receptions on offense. He is described as hard to block and can move well when playing on either side of the ball. With his range and speed he could also play an outside linebacker. Alabama, Florida, Florida State, Notre Dame and Tennessee are his top choices.

Eddie Strong follows in the footsteps of former Batesville South Panola, Alabama and NFL linebacker Dwayne Rudd. At 6-3 and 210, Strong is not quite as fast as Rudd at 4.7, but is quite a player. He averaged 11 tackles per game last season along with posting four interceptions and three fumble recoveries. He covers

the field from sideline to sideline and was considered the state's top player entering 1997. A *PrepStar* preseason All-America, he has already verbally committed to Ole Miss, although he was in Alabama's camp last summer.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Bobby Brown, not the singer, is a 6-1, 215-pound linebacker from Spartanburg. Many feel Brown is perhaps the most talented linebacker in the state, but his grades will be the key to whether or not he begins at the junior college level. Brown has been rumored to be most interested in Clemson and South Carolina, but Tennessee, Alabama and North Carolina State have also talked with him.

TENNESSEE

Jessie Miller is a 6-2, 223-pound linebacker from Tullahoma, home of former Tide star Antonio London. Miller has a reputation of one of the state's hardest hitters. He has great instincts and can get to the ball and deal with opposing offensive linemen. As a junior he recorded 97 solo tackles, 42 assisted, caused two fumbles, recovered two fumbles and had two sacks. He benches 305 and squats 460. His GPA is good at 3.65 and has scored a 25 on the ACT. Favorites are Tennessee, Georgia Tech, Auburn, Vandy, Alabama and Mississippi State.

Kindell Moorehead is a 6-4, 287-pound linebacker from Memphis Melrose. Moorehead is another special player that is on the 1997 Dream Team of *PrepStar* magazine. Listed as a defensive line prospect, by many he has 4.67 speed and plays middle linebacker for a state

champion team that sent three players to Tennessee last season. Considered an impact player, Moorehead was selected All-Memphis Region and all-state his junior and sophomore seasons. As a junior he recorded 150 tackles, 21 sacks, 13 tackles for losses and caused seven fumbles. Most college coaches consider him one of the top two prospects at defensive end in the South this season. Moorhead has already committed to the Tide.

Anthony Nelson is a 6-4, 300-pound defensive tackle from Kingsport Sullivan, who is rated eighth by Emfinger's *BlueChips* Newsletter and first team All Southeast Region by *PrepStar*. An all-state selection last year, Anthony also earned Mountain Lakes Defensive Player of the Year honors. With a bench press of 455 pounds, he has incredible strength and combines that with good quickness from a man of his size. He runs a 4.9 in the 40 and is looking at Alabama.

David Turner is a very good defensive lineman for Memphis Melrose who was unfortunate to play at the same time as John Henderson, one of the country's top prospects who verbally committed to Tennessee. Had it not been for Henderson, Turner would have been the top defensive lineman in the state. A two-way player who might end up on the offensive side of the ball in college, Turner totalled 63 tackles, six sacks and three fumble recoveries this season. He benches 255, squats 310 and has a 3.4 GPA. Turner camped at Tennessee and Alabama.

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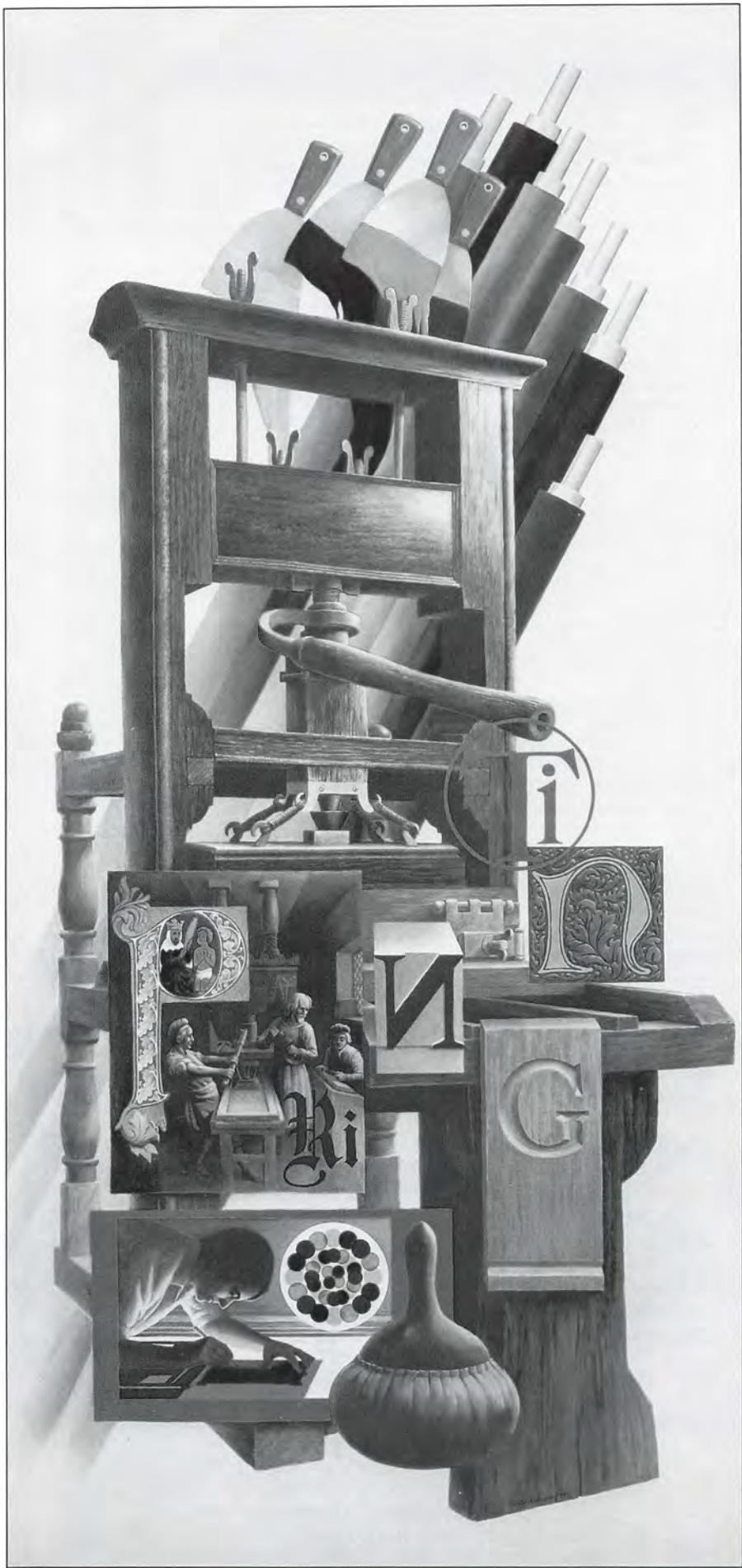
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1997-98 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules

Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)
89	Marathon Oil (Exh.)	72
65	Slovakia Chemosvit (Exh.)	50
Nov. 18	North Texas	7:00
Nov. 22	@ Minnesota	2:00
Nov. 24	Jacksonville State	7:00
	Puerto Rico Holiday Classic @ San Juan	
Nov. 27	Georgia Tech	2:00
Nov. 28	Illinois or Wichita State	TBA
Nov. 29	St. John's, Louisville, Hofstra or American PR	TBA
Dec. 3	Texas A&M	7:00
Dec. 6	@ Boston University	2:00
Dec. 13	Florida International	7:00
Dec. 20	Tulane @ Birmingham	TBA
Dec. 22	Alabama State All-College Tournament @ Oklahoma City	7:00
Dec. 27	Sam Houston State	TBA
Dec. 28	Oklahoma or Coppin State	TBA
Jan. 3	Mississippi State	TBA
Jan. 7	@ LSU (Jefferson-Pilot)	7:00
Jan. 10	Ole Miss (CBS)	1:00
Jan. 14	Vanderbilt (Jefferson Pilot)	7:00
Jan. 18	@ Auburn (Jefferson Pilot)	1:30
Jan. 21	Kentucky @ Louisville	TBA
Jan. 24	@ Arkansas	TBA
Jan. 28	Tennessee	7:00
Feb. 4	Auburn	7:00
Feb. 7	@ Ole Miss	TBA
Feb. 11	@ South Carolina (Jeff Pilot)	7:00
Feb. 14	Florida	7:00
Feb. 18	@ Georgia	TBA
Feb. 21	LSU (Fox SportSouth)	5:00
Feb. 25	@ Mississippi State	TBA
Feb. 28	Arkansas (Jefferson Pilot)	3:00
Southeastern Conference Tournament		
March 5-8	@ Atlanta	TBA

Men's Swimming

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)
81	Delta State	30
64	Northeast Louisiana	47
Oct. 24-	Collegiate Aqua Sports	All Day
Oct. 25	@ Fort Lauderdale, Florida	
Oct. 30-	Diving Wrold Trials	All Day
Nov. 1	@ Athens, Georgia	
87	LSU	154
Nov. 14-16	Auburn Invitational	All Day
Dec. 4-	United States Open	All Day
Dec. 6	@ Indianapolis, Indiana	
Jan. 2-	Georgia Diving	All Day
Jan. 4	@ Athens, Georgia	
Jan. 3	Georgia	1:00
Jan. 10	South Carolina	11:00
Jan. 24	@ Florida	10:30
Feb. 7	@ Auburn	11:00
Feb. 15-	SEC Diving	All Day
Feb. 17	@ Gainesville, Fla.	
Feb. 18-	SEC Championships	All Day
Feb. 21	@ Gainesville, Fla.	
March 7	Last Chance @ Auburn	All Day
March 26-	NCAA Championships	All Day
March 28	@ Auburn	
April 22-	US Diving	All Day
April 26	TBA	

Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)
82	Baltic All-Stars (exh.)	55
88	Shelen of Russia (exh.)	68
	Women's Pre-Season NIT	
91	Furman	41
Nov. 16	@ Nebraska	6:00
Nov. 20-21	NIT Semifinals and Finals	TBA
Hawaii Invitational @ Honolulu		
Nov. 28-	(Hawaii, Oklahoma State, TBA	
Nov. 30	LSU, Indiana, Iowa State, Idaho)	
Dec. 2	Samford	7:00
Dec. 6	Akron	2:00
	Leggs Classic @ Las Cruces, New Mexico	
Dec. 17	Stephen F. Austin	5:00
Dec. 18	New Mexico State or Elon	TBA
Dec. 21	@ Florida	2:00
	St. Joseph's Invitational @ Philadelphia	
Dec. 28-	(St. Joseph's, Yale, Boston College)	
Dec. 29	Finals	TBA
Jan. 4	@ South Carolina	1:00
Jan. 7	Auburn	7:00
Jan. 11	@ Arkansas	2:00
Jan. 14	@ Mississippi	TBA
Jan. 18	Mississippi State	2:00
Jan. 20	@ Northwestern State	TBA
Jan. 24	Kentucky	7:00
Jan. 29	@ LSU	7:00
Feb. 1	@ Tennessee (SportSouth)	2:00
Feb. 3	LSU	7:00
Feb. 5	North Carolina-Charlotte	7:00
Feb. 8	Georgia (ESPN2)	4:00
Feb. 11	@ Auburn	TBA
Feb. 14	Florida	2:00
Feb. 18	@ Georgia Southern	6:00
Feb. 22	@ Vanderbilt	2:00
Southeastern Conference Tournament		
Feb. 26-March 1	@ Columbus, Georgia	TBA

Gymnastics

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)
Jan. 4	Excite Night (Intrasquad)	2:00
Jan. 10	@ Minnesota	7:00
Jan. 17	Georgia	7:00
Jan. 23	@ Auburn	7:30
Jan. 31	Penn State	7:00
Feb. 7	Florida	7:00
Feb. 14	@ Georgia	6:00
Feb. 20	@ Kentucky	6:30
Feb. 27	Alabama Invitational (Arizona State, Massachusetts, North Carolina State)	7:00
March 6	Penn State & LSU @ LSU	7:00
March 14	Utah State	7:00
March 21	SEC Championships @ Baton Rouge	
April 4	NCAA Central Regional	
April 16-	NCAA Championships	
April 18	@ Los Angeles	
Men's Indoor Track		
Date	Event	
Jan. 16-	@ Clemson Indoor	
Jan. 17		
Jan. 24	@ LSU Purple Tiger	
Jan. 30-	Rocky Mountain Cup	
Jan. 31	@ Colorado Springs, Colorado	
Jan. 31-	Terrier Classic	
Feb. 1	@ Boston	
Feb. 13-	Butler Invitational	
Feb. 14	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	
Feb. 28-	SEC Championships	
March 1	@ Baton Rouge	
March 6-	USATF Championships	
March 7	@ Atlanta	
March 13-	NCAA Championships	
March 14	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	
Women's Indoor Track		
Date	Event	
Jan. 17	Saluki Invitational	
	@ Carbondale, Ill.	
Jan. 24	@ LSU Purple Tiger	
Jan. 30-	Rocky Mountain Cup	
Jan. 31	@ Colorado Springs, Colorado	
Jan. 31-	Terrier Classic	
Feb. 1	@ Boston	
Feb. 13-	Butler Invitational	
Feb. 14	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	
Feb. 28-	SEC Championships	
March 1	@ Baton Rouge	
March 6-	USATF Championships	
March 7	@ Atlanta	
March 13-	NCAA Championships	
March 14	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	

Women's Swimming

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)
68	Delta State	39
68	Northeast Louisiana	33
Oct. 24-	Collegiate Aqua Sports	All Day
Oct. 25	@ Fort Lauderdale, Florida	
Oct. 30-	Diving Wrold Trials	All Day
Nov. 1	@ Athens, Georgia	
105	LSU	135
Nov. 14-	Auburn Invitational	All Day
Nov. 16		
Dec. 4-	United States Open	All Day
Dec. 6	@ Indianapolis, Indiana	
Jan. 2-	Georgia Diving	All Day
Jan. 4	@ Athens, Georgia	
Jan. 3	Georgia	1:00
Jan. 10	South Carolina	11:00
Jan. 24	@ Florida	10:30
Feb. 7	@ Auburn	11:00
Feb. 15-	SEC Diving	All Day
Feb. 17	@ Gainesville, Fla.	
Feb. 18-	SEC Championships	All Day
Feb. 21	@ Gainesville, Fla.	
March 7	Last Chance @ Auburn	All Day
March 26-	NCAA Championships	All Day
March 28	@ Auburn	
April 22-	US Diving	All Day
April 26	TBA	
Women's Indoor Track		
Date	Event	
Jan. 17	Saluki Invitational	
	@ Carbondale, Ill.	
Jan. 24	@ LSU Purple Tiger	
Jan. 30-	Rocky Mountain Cup	
Jan. 31	@ Colorado Springs, Colorado	
Jan. 31-	Terrier Classic	
Feb. 1	@ Boston	
Feb. 13-	Butler Invitational	
Feb. 14	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	
Feb. 28-	SEC Championships	
March 1	@ Baton Rouge	
March 6-	USATF Championships	
March 7	@ Atlanta	
March 13-	NCAA Championships	
March 14	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	

Results Of Alabama's 1997 Opponents

Team	Aug. 30	Sept. 6	Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 27	Oct. 4	Oct. 11	Oct. 18	Oct. 25	Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29	
HOUSTON Cougars Houston, Texas	@ ALABA- MA (Birmingham) 17-42	California 3-35	Pittsburgh 24-35		@ Minnesota 45-43	@ UCLA 10-66		Cincinnati 41-38 (2 OT)	@ Louisville 36-22	@ Memphis 3-24	East Carolina 27-28	@ Southern Miss 0-33	Tulane		
VANDERBILT Commodores Nashville, Tenn.	North Texas 29-12		Sept. 11 ALABAMA 0-20	TCU 40-16	@ Ole Miss 3-15	LSU 6-7	@ Northern Illinois 17-7	Georgia 13-34	@ South Carolina 3-35		@ Florida 7-20	Kentucky 10-21		@ Tennessee	
ARKANSAS Razorbacks Fayetteville, Ark.			@ ALABA- MA (Tuscaloosa) 17-16	Louisiana Tech 17-13	@ Florida 7-56			South Carolina 13-39	Auburn 21-26		Nov. 6 @ Ole Miss 9-19	Tennessee 22-30	Mississippi State	Nov. 28 @ LSU	
SOUTHERN MISS Golden Eagles Hattiesburg, Miss.			@ SMU 9-31	Northeast Louisiana 28-16		@ ALABA- MA (Birmingham) 13-27	Louisville 42-24	@ East Carolina 23-13	Tulane 34-13	@ Cincinnati 24-17	@ Tennessee 20-44	Houston 33-0	@ Memphis		
KENTUCKY Wildcats Lexington, Ky.	@ Florida 6-21		@ Illinois 24-7	Nevada 35-19		ALABAMA 40-34 (OT)	@ South Carolina 24-38	Northeast Louisiana 49-14	@ Georgia 13-23	LSU 28-63		@ Vanderbilt 21-10	Tennessee		
TENNESSEE Volunteers Knoxville, Tenn.	Texas Tech 52-17		@ UCLA 30-24		@ Florida 20-33		Ole Miss 31-17	Georgia 38-13		@ South Carolina 22-7	Southern Miss 44-20	@ Arkansas 30-22	@ Kentucky	Vanderbilt	
OLE MISS Rebels Oxford, Miss.	Central Florida 24-23 (OT)		SMU 23-15	@ Auburn 9-19		Vanderbilt 15-3	@ Tennessee 17-31			ALABAMA 20-29		Nov. 6 @ Arkansas 19-9	@ Tulane 41-24	Georgia	@ Mississippi State
LOUISIANA TECH Bulldogs Ruston, La.			Bowling Green 30-23	Northeast Louisiana 17-16	Central Michigan 56-28	@ Arkansas 13-17	California 41-34	@ Auburn 13-49	Arkansas State 42-14	@ Boise State 31-27	@ ALABA- MA (Tuscaloosa) 26-20	@ UAB 32-29	SW Louisiana 63-24		
LSU Fighting Tigers Baton Rouge, La.			Texas El Paso 55-3		@ Mississippi State 24-9	Auburn 28-31	Akron 56-0	@ Vanderbilt 7-6	Florida 28-21	Ole Miss 21-36		@ Kentucky 63-28	@ ALABA- MA (Tuscaloosa) 270	Notre Dame 6-24	
MISSISSIPPI STATE Bulldogs Starkville, Miss.	Memphis 13-10		Kentucky 35-27				South Carolina 37-17	@ Georgia 0-47	Northeast Louisiana 24-10		@ Auburn 20-0			Nov. 28 Arkansas	
AUBURN Tigers Auburn, Ala.		Sept. 4 @ Virginia 28-17	Ole Miss 19-9	@ LSU 31-28	Central Florida 41-14		@ South Carolina 23-6	Louisiana Tech 49-13	Florida 10-24	@ Arkansas 26-21	Mississippi State 0-20		@ Georgia 45-34	ALABAMA 63-30 (ESPN)	

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